Parks and Recreation - 1916

WILL CONSIDER NEGRO PARK SHORTLY.

The Richmond Planet 9/16/16

Alderman John J. Mitchell, chairman of the committee on public buildings, properties and utilities, has received word from City Attorney H. R. Pollard that the finance committee will take up the question of a Negro park in old Jackson ward at an early date.

City Attorney Pollard has informed the finance committee that the commisioners who condemned the property required for the park have allowed the owners a total of $33,550. The property fronts on the north side of Boyd street, between Harrison and Kinney streets, and the awards are as follows:

John P. Davidson's estate, $3,500; I. W. Crump, $2,800; Marion L. Norvell, $4,500; Stella C. Jolly, now Bouseman, $3,200; Harry and Annie Cantor, $3,500; Florence C. Hunter, $2,000; J. H. Braxton, $1,800; L. C. Jenkins, $1,200; John F. Beale, $800; James T. Carter, $1,650; Nannie Page's estate, $1,600; Andrew Thomas, $1,800; Paul Weil, $1,600; Charles L. Harris, $800; Mary Heppert, $1,600; E. L. Hobson, Jr., $1,200.

AMOUNTS REGARDED REASONABLE

The city attorney informs the committee that he thinks the amounts allowed are reasonable. He also informs Alderman Mitchell that the objections made by colored people in regard to the location and the alleged fact that the property is not in condition for a park, that nobody proposes or will require Negroes to frequent the place as a park until it has been improved and suitably equipped as such.

LOCATION THOUGHT IDEAL.

Alderman Mitchell says the location is ideal.

"It is within a couple of blocks of the colored Monument avenue, West Leight street," said Alderman Mitchell, "and borders on eight or ten acres which the city owns. This city property can be added to the land which we propose to condemn, and the result will be a beautiful, commodious park, a credit to old Jackson ward. It will improve real estate values all around and provide a breathing place where it is needed most.

"Old Jackson ward is the most thickly settled section of the city. It leads in density of population with 275 to the acre, I believe. A park is necessary in this congested section more so than in any other portion of the city and money invested to this end will more than repay the community. We owe it to the colored population and we owe it to the city in general to establish this park, and I think the finance committee will see its way clear to do so."—News Leader, Sept. 8, 1916.

OPEN NEW PLAYGROUND

The Journal & Guide 9/12/16

CIVIC BETTERMENT CLUB OF ROANOKE LAUNCHED SUCCESSFUL MOVEMENT—WHITE CITIZENS GIVE SUBSTANTIAL AID.

(By W. A. Reid.)

Roanoke, Va., August 9.—The opening of the colored playground under the auspices of the Civic Betterment Club, on Monday August the 7th, was a grand success. Many of the white friends were present and spoke encouraging words to the Club and to the parents present. Mr. Myers, editor of the World News was among the number present and said that he would do all in his power as editor to help the colored women in their work. Miss Mamie Porter, the director of white playgrounds spoke particularly to the children as to the manner in which they should conduct themselves during play hours. Mr. Lookabill, also spoke some very encouraging remarks to the colored people, and said that he felt that in the near future, seeing that the colored people had taken an interest in playground work, and that they did not have sufficiently large grounds to accommodate the colored children, that he would secure larger grounds. Had it not been for the kind broad hearted white friends of our city and a few of our colored friends who were willing to sacrifice both time and money, the playground movement would not have been a success.

The white people of our city are truly interested in the colored people and it was verified when the playground committee went from store to store soliciting aid of them in the form of donations for the ground. Each merchant responded without hesitating, giving such things as seats, swings and toys, and many gave sums of money. The playgrounds is located on Third Ave., N. W. Roanoke, and was donated to the Civic Betterment Club, by Dr. Geo. E. Moore, for the amusement of colored children until they can secure other grounds. Miss Maude Reynolds, the president of the Club, knowing that this lot was vacant and feeling that the doctor was a public spirited man, interviewed him in reference to securing the lot; he readily consented and thus we have a splendid playgrounds.

The lot is free to the Club to have entertainments, to sell and raise money to help cover the expense of getting the lot in its present condition, and add to its general beauty. The place indeed is picturesque, the mothers have already expressed their satisfaction in having such a beautiful place in which their children may play without being in danger. As to the children, they seem to be just as happy as can be to know that at last they have a place where they may go and play to their hearts delight. The grounds will be under the care of Mrs. Schley.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, of Victoria, Va., who has been undergoing treatment at the Burrell Memorial Hospital, returned home Tuesday.

Mrs. K. T. Boland is attending the National Federation of Women, at Baltimore.

Mrs. Maude Anderson, of Winston-Salem, N. C., is the guest of Miss Irene Cooper.

Mrs. Johnnie Curle Cooper left Thursday for Brooklyn, N. Y., to be the guest of her brother, Mr. John Cooper.

Mrs. L. J. Watts is spending the week in Lexington, as the guest of her sister, Mrs. Jackson.

Mrs. J. M. Hunter and her daughter are spending several weeks in Roanoke, and are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Green Penn, on Wells Ave.

Mrs. Hunter spoke at the A. M. E. Church Sunday night. Her subject was, "Watchfulness," those who heard her considered it a rare treat.

[redacted]ored people of this city are as[redacted]rotection in the city parks. However, at this time there is but little of which to complain. The colored have been enjoying the parks as the white people. That they do not go in large numbers is the best under the circumstances. What we wish is our right of enjoyment rather than to be in the parks at all times. If we are careful in not overdoing the matter, together with the assistance of Mayor Bell and other mayors who will follow him, the right to go where we wish will not be opposed.

NEWS TRIBUNE

Detroit, Mich.

RECREATIONAL CENTER FOR NEGROES PLANNED

Plans for the organization of a recreational center for Negroes and the opening of a garment factory employing only Negro employes were outlined to nurses of the board of health Monday by Forrester B. Washington, director of the Detroit Urban league for the study of Negro conditions. The league's headquarters are at 297 St. Antoine street.

"Negroes in Detroit have 40 saloons, 23 pool rooms and 40 gambling rooms in the Negro district," said Washington. "There are no educational or recreational features to keep the Negro away from them."

Birmingham, Ala.

Nespor Will Instruct Negro School Children

The negro school children of Birmingham will be instructed in playground recreation for 10 days commencing September 5.

The September Gale, a negro organization, will have charge of the programme for the various days and children from all of the outlying districts as well as greater Birmingham will take part in the festivities. The playgrounds for negro children, on the North Ensley car line, will be the scene of the instructions.

Z. Nespor, formerly connected with the city as playground instructor, will be the main speaker on the opening day.

Age

Wheeling, W. Va.

PLAYGROUND BENEFIT.

On Friday evening, December 15, the Negro Playground association will give an entertainment, "The Play of the Nations," followed by a dance at Market auditorium. Admission to entertainment, 25 cents, and to the dance 25 cents extra. Music will be furnished by the famous Walker's Saxaphone orchestra.

The purpose of this entertainment and dance is to get funds to aid in providing a play ground for children living in the second ward. The liberal patronage and moral support of all persons is requested, in this effort to supply this necessary and desirable enterprise.